

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 060526

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK:MRC

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S/S - MR. LUERS

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R 262234Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060526

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF MUJIB'S ILLNESS

1. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING MEDICAL PROGNOSIS, WE THINK APPARENT SERIOUSNESS OF MUJIB'S ILLNESS REQUIRES THAT WE NOW DO SOME CONTINGENCY THINKING SHOULD HE DIE OR PROVE UNABLE FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME TO RESUME EFFECTIVE COMMAND IN DACCA. IN EITHER CASE WE SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO ADJUST OUR THINKING REGARDING CURRENT BILATERAL ISSUES AND LONGER-RANGE QUESTIONS OF US POSTURE IN AREA.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT PREDICTIONS REGARDING THE SUCCESSION MUST BE HIGHLY SPECULATIVE AT MOMENT. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT YOU HAVE USEFUL INSIGHTS INTO WAYS IN WHICH SITUATION MIGHT EVOLVE IN A POST-MUJIB ERA IN BANGLADESH AND IMPLICATIONS FOR STABILITY OF COUNTRY AND REGION. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN PREPARATIONS FOR AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL, WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE SUBJECT IS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO ASK YOUR VIEWS AT THIS TIME. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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